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TRANSACTIONS OF THE SOCIETY FOR 1871.

Annual meeting of the American Geographical and Statistical Society, Cooper Institute, New York, January 31, 1871. Chief Justice CHAS. P. DALY, the president, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting, December 20, 1870, were read and approved.

Mr. Conkling, as Chairman of the Council, read the annual report for 1870, which, on motion, was accepted and placed on file.

Mr. Conkling, on behalf of Council, reported the following candidates as having been approved for election as

Resident Members — Laurens J. David, Wallace P. Groom, H. A. Jackson, Horace B. Fry, Frank E. Howe and Wm. M. Fliess.

No ballot being called for, on motion these gentlemen were declared duly elected members of the Society.

The treasurer, Henry Clews, Esq., presented his annual report for the year 1870, exhibiting a cash balance in the treasury of \$169.52.

On motion, the report was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

The librarian, H. B. Hammond, Esq., not being able to attend, presented his annual report through Mr. Geo. Cabot Ward, showing that, in all, one thousand two hundred and twenty-three accessions were made to the library by purchase and donation.

On motion, the report was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

Mr. N. M. Beckwith, in the absence of the chairman of the nominating committee, Judge Davies, presented

their report, recommending the following gentlemen to be elected as officers of the Society for the year 1871 :

President—CHARLES P. DALY, LL.D.

Vice-Presidents—HENRY GRINNELL, F. A. CONKLING,
JOSEPH R. THOMPSON, D. D.

Foreign Corresponding Secretary—TOWNSEND HARRIS.

Domestic Corresponding Secretary—W. H. H. MOORE.

Recording Secretary—E. R. STRAZNICKY, M. D. Ph. D.

Treasurer—HENRY CLEWS.

Librarian—H. B. HAMMOND.

Council—WILLIAM REMSEN, T. BAILEY MYERS, THEO. W. DWIGHT, LL.D.; W. T. BLODGETT, W. E. CURTIS, GEO. W. CULLUM, U. S A.; L. M. RUTHERFURD, GEO. CABOT WARD.

The president then appointed Messrs. Richards and O'Reilly as tellers, to proceed with the election after the conclusion of the annual address.

Chief Justice Daly then introduced to the Society Prof. D. C. Gilman, of the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale College, who delivered the annual address, selecting for his subject "The Last Ten Years of Geographical Work in this Country."

After the conclusion of this highly interesting and instructive discourse, and on motion of Prof. Dwight, seconded by Mr. Cooper, the thanks of the Society were presented to Prof. Gilman, and a copy requested for publication in the Journal.

The election of officers was now proceeded with, and the report of Messrs. Richards and O'Reilly showed that the gentlemen recommended on the ticket were unanimously elected, and on motion they were declared duly elected officers of the Society for the year 1871.

On motion, the meeting then adjourned.

E. R. STRAZNICKY,
Recording Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1870.

ROOMS OF THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL AND
STATISTICAL SOCIETY, COOPER INSTITUTE, }
NEW YORK, *January 31, 1871.* }

Agreeably to the provisions of section three, chapter six, of the by-laws of the Society, the Council have the honor to present the following "general report of their proceedings and of those of the Society during the past year." In doing so, they have the satisfaction again to congratulate their associates upon the continued increase of the number of members; upon a large and valuable addition to the library and to the collection of atlases, maps and charts, among which may be mentioned the publications of our own and of foreign governments, and of our sister societies at home and abroad; and also upon the flattering marks of consideration with which the resumption of its active labors has been greeted by its numerous correspondents, including the leading scientific bodies, as well as many of the most distinguished savans of the old world.

At no former period has the library and map-room been so largely consulted by the members of the Society and by the public, who have been permitted on all suitable occasions to avail themselves of its benefits. In view of the general interest awakened by the announcement by several of the papers of this course, it has been a subject of regret that the limited space in the lecture-room has made it necessary to restrict the admission, at such times, to the members of the Society, to the representatives of the newspaper press and to a very small number of invited guests. With this exception, the five beautiful and spacious apartments which have been set apart for our accommodation, by the generous founder and the board of trustees of the Cooper Union, have afforded to all desiring to use them facilities unsurpassed in the country for the study of geography and statistics.

The Council avail themselves of this opportunity publicly to return their thanks to Messrs. Weed, Parsons & Co., the printers to the State of New York, for the donation of important public documents, which enabled us promptly to complete the parcels to be transmitted to our several correspondents, in exchange for their own publications and those of their respective governments.

Early in the last fiscal year it became necessary to decide whether the funds in the treasury should be applied to the preparation of a catalogue of the library, maps, etc., or to the publication of the Journal and the Society's Transactions. After mature deliberation, the latter of these alternatives was adopted. In making this decision, the Council was chiefly influenced by the fact that the classification and arrangement of the books, maps, etc., have been so thoroughly carried out under the direction of the recording secretary, Dr. E. R. Straznicky, as to render it comparatively easy to refer, without the aid of a catalogue, to any work in the possession of the Society.

The following summary exhibits the increase in the number of members during the year 1870:

Number of members in January, 1870.....	468
Number of members since added	93
Total.....	561
Number to be deducted by death and resignation.....	21
Number remaining January 31, 1871	540
Net increase during the year.....	72

The finances of the Society continue to be in a satisfactory condition, as will appear from the subjoined abstract of the report of the treasurer, Henry Clews, Esq.:

Balance on hand, as per last annual report.....	\$574 44
Receipts to date.....	3,262 50
Total.....	\$3,836 94
Expenditures since January 25, 1870	3,667 42
Leaving a cash balance on hand of.....	\$169 52
The estimate of receipts for the ensuing year is as follows :	
Dues of 463 resident members, at five dollars each...	2,315 00
Uncollected dues for 1870, about.....	200 00
Making the available resources for the year 1871.	\$2,684 52

No estimate has been made of the amount of the initiation fees of new members; but it is reasonable to assume that the receipts from this source will reach as large a sum as in former years.

The following abstract of the report of the librarian, H. B. Hammond, Esq., shows the additions made during the year to the library:

Number of books and maps added by donation.....	1,049
Number of books and maps added by purchase.....	174
Total addition by donation and purchase	<u>1,223</u>

Since the date of the last annual report, nine meetings of the Society and ten meetings of the Council have been held.

On January 25, 1870, the Society held its annual meeting and the present board of officers was elected. The Hon. Chas. P. Daly, the president, delivered the annual address, of which the recent explorations and theories for reaching the north pole formed the leading topic.

On February 15, the Hon. E. G. Squier read a paper "On the Geography and Ancient Monuments of Peru."

On March 22, Samuel P. Dinsmore, Esq., read a paper on the subject of constructing a canal across the Isthmus of Panama.

On April 12, Capt. Chas. W. Raymond, of the United States corps of engineers, read a paper on the Yukoa river region of Alaska.

On May 10, the Rev. Albert Bushnell, a missionary for the last twenty-five years at the Gaboon, read a paper "On the Western Regions of Equatorial Africa."

On May 24, Dr. Rossiter W. Raymond, United States commissioner of mining statistics, read a paper "On the Canons of the Snake and Columbia Rivers."

On June 14, Dr. A. K. Gardner, of New York, read a paper "On the Geographical Distribution of Disease."

On November 15, Simon Stevens, Esq., read a paper "On the Isthmus of Tehuantepec as a New Route of Commerce."

On December 20, Miner K. Kellogg, Esq., read a paper "On the Geography of Mount Sinai."

The long interrupted system of exchanges with foreign societies

was re-established during the summer by the transmission of packages containing the last number of the Society's Journal and various public documents of a scientific character.

Finally, the Council have much pleasure in commending the courtesy and fidelity with which the clerk, Mr. Robert Curren, has uniformly discharged his duties.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. A. CONKLING,
Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR 1870.

ROOMS OF THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL AND
STATISTICAL SOCIETY, COOPER INSTITUTE,
NEW YORK, *January 31, 1871.*

The treasurer respectfully submits the following report for the period from January 25, 1870, to January 31, 1871, of the receipts and expenditures of this Society:

<i>Receipts.</i>		
Balance from last year		\$574 44
One life membership	\$50 00	
Balance for one life membership	40 00	
Initiation fees from new members	850 00	
Annual dues for 1867	10 00	
Annual dues for 1868	15 00	
Annual dues for 1869	45 00	
Annual dues for 1870	1,702 50	
Additional subscriptions from—		
Messrs. Abner L. Ely	50 00	
Anson G. P. Dodge	50 00	
Wm. B. Ogden	50 00	
J. Carson Brevoort	100 00	
Paul B. Du Chaillu	50 00	
From loan	250 00	
		<hr/> 3,262 50
Total (carried forward)		\$3,836 94

Brought forward..... \$3,836 94

Expenditures.

Salaries	\$804 00	
Furniture	71 25	
Stationery (including envelopes of meetings).....	103 00	
Books	607 17	
Printing (including Journal)	779 20	
Sundries (including postage, advertising and postage stamps for meetings).....	972 93	
Gas and steam	200 00	
Map making	62 00	
Binding of books	67 25	
		<hr/> 3,667 42
Leaving a balance on hand of		\$169 52
To this sum must be added the uncollected dues from 463 resident members for the coming year, at five dollars each, exclusive of life members		2,315 00
Outstanding dues for 1870, about		200 00
		<hr/>
Available resources for the coming year		<u><u>\$2,684 62</u></u>

In this sum are not included the initiation fees from prospective new members, which probably will amount again to several hundred dollars

HENRY CLEWS,
Treasurer.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN FOR THE YEAR 1870.

ROOMS OF THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL AND
STATISTICAL SOCIETY, COOPER INSTITUTE,
NEW YORK, *January* 31, 1871. }

The librarian respectfully presents to the members of this Society the following report for the period commencing with the 25th of January, 1870, and ending on the 31st day of January, 1871:

The receipt books of this Society, in which are noted the several donations that are made to the library, show that during

the period mentioned five hundred and fifty-six donations have been made, and of the following character:

Folios	4
Quartos	54
Octavos	91
Duodecimos	9
Pamphlets—Quartos	81
“ Octavos	744
Maps	66
<hr/>	
Total	1,049

The books of the Society in which are noted the various purchases which are made for the Society, show that one hundred and thirty entries have been made, and which comprise the following:

Folios	7
Quartos	22
Octavos	110
Duodecimos	11
Pamphlets—Quartos	7
“ Octavos	11
Maps	6
<hr/>	
	174
<hr/>	
Grand Total by purchase and donation	1,223
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It will thus be observed that a large addition has again been made to the valuable and useful library of the Society during the past year.

The donations have been unusually large, and for the most part have been from foreign Societies with which this one is now again in regular correspondence and exchange. Among the other donors to this Society are included a large number of our national, State and municipal officers, and many private gentlemen, whose names will appear in alphabetical order in the printed Report.

The librarian cannot but congratulate the Society upon the very satisfactory condition of its library. It is to be regretted

that our funds have not permitted it to furnish the much-desired catalogue.

Respectfully submitted.

HENRY B. HAMMOND,
Librarian.

ROOMS OF THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL AND
STATISTICAL SOCIETY, COOPER INSTITUTE, }
NEW YORK, *January 16, 1871.*

The undersigned special committee, appointed at the last monthly meeting of this Society on the 20th December, 1870, for the purpose of preparing nominations for the election of officers on the 31st of January, 1871, respectfully report that they would recommend the names of the following gentlemen to be elected as officers of the Society for the year 1871:

President—CHARLES P. DALY, LL.D.

Vice-Presidents—HENRY GRINNELL, F. A. CONKLING, JOS. P. THOMPSON, D. D.

Foreign Corresponding Secretary—TOWNSEND HARRIS.

Domestic Corresponding Secretary—W. H. H. MOORE.

Recording Secretary—E. R. STRAZNICKY, M. D., Ph. D.

Treasurer—HENRY CLEWS.

Librarian—HENRY B. HAMMOND.

Council—WM. REMSEN, T. BAILEY MYERS, THEO. W. DWIGHT, LL.D., LEWIS M. RUTHERFURD, WM. T. BLODGETT, WM. E. CURTIS, GEO. W. CULLUM, U. S. A., GEO. CABOT WARD.

Respectfully submitted.

HENRY E. DAVIES.
CHARLES P. KIRKLAND.
C. DARLING.

Regular monthly meeting of the American Geographical and Statistical Society, Cooper Institute, New York, February 28, 1871. Chief Justice CHAS. P. DALY, the president, in the chair.

The minutes of the last annual meeting of January 31, 1871, were read and approved.

Mr. Ward, on behalf of Council, reported the names

of the following candidates as having been approved for election as

Resident Members—W. C. Cooper, Gen. Alexander Shaler, James A. McCreary, Rev. Wm. Wallace Atterbury, Wm. C. Gilman, Benjamin F. Butler, Douglas Robinson, Walter R. T. Jones, Henry J. Youngs, Wm. H. Swan, Howard Potter, Alfred Youngs, Robert S. Letson, Clifford A. Hand, James F. Cox ;

And by Prof. C. F. Hartt, of Cornell University, Ithaca, as

Corresponding Members—Senor Ferreira Penna, Para, Brazil ; and Dr. Joaquim Xavier De Oliveira Pimentel Santarem, Para, Brazil.

The ballot being called for, on motion, they were declared duly elected resident and corresponding members of this Society.

Mr. Remsen, on behalf of the treasurer, Mr. Henry Clews, presented his monthly report, exhibiting a cash balance in the treasury of \$697.74.

The recording secretary, in the absence of Mr. Hammond, the librarian, presented his report, showing that in all three hundred and sixty-nine additions had been made to the library by purchase and donation.

On motion, both reports were accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

Mr. Wm. E. Curtis offered the following resolution, which, after having been seconded, was unanimously adopted, to wit :

Resolved, That the thanks of the American Geographical and Statistical Society are tendered to the Hon. Fernando Wood, for the gift to the Society of one hundred and seventy-nine volumes of highly important, valuable and useful works.

The president then introduced to the audience Prof. Wm. H. Brewer, of the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale College, who delivered an exceedingly interesting and instructive discourse on his explorations in the Rocky Mountains, and the high peaks of Colorado.

The Rev. Dr. Joseph P. Thompson then arose and said :

MR. PRESIDENT.—I am sure that I but attempt to express, for I cannot hope fully to express, the pleasure which is shared by the entire Society, in rising to move a vote of thanks to Prof Brewer for his most striking and animating discourse, and to request that he would do us the favor, if he can spare time from his numerous occupations, to reduce it to writing, that we may use it through our channels of publication. I have been very much impressed, as I sat here this evening, with the richness and variety of resources opened to this Society on our own continent, which is our most legitimate field for investigation. If my memory serves me, this is the fifth or sixth address which we have had within the past year, or the past two years, upon different sections of our own North American continent. We have had the Pacific railroad, in particular. We had a section around the head waters of those rivers that have been pointed out and described. We have had Prof. Tillman's admirable digest of all the work done in our meeting during the past ten years. And yet, this especial matter has come before us to-night as vivid, as entertaining, as instructive, as though we had known nothing of it before. Indeed, for myself, I am indebted to the professor for a much more clear and satisfactory conception of that mountain region, of everything appertaining to it, of its elevation, extent, grandeur, natural history, even of its peculiar flavors, than ever before. [Laughter.] I have been struck, also, by the dignity and worth that science imparts to our humanity. As I was listening to this course of remark, my thought went backward to those ages which the geologists are just beginning to measure, when those mighty glaciers were formed, and did their work, and melted away; when the volcanoes poured forth their fires, and this lava, thousands upon thousands of feet in depth, was deposited.

Until this age of science, none of all that work of the Creator, none of all these processes of nature, had begun to be explored or comprehended. First, the wild man was there. We have no trace of his beginning, and he has left us few intelligible records of his life—nothing that we count as history. Then came the hunter, disputing with the Indian, as the Indian had disputed

before him with the buffalo and the bear, possession of this as a region from which to win the necessities of life. Then came the adventurer and the emigrant, passing through these regions of grandeur, and seeking some place of settlement beyond. At last, comes the man of science, who plants his foot upon these highest peaks, measures these vast dimensions, maps out to us our country, acquaints us with the vast treasure the Creator has here deposited, near to us, and bids us go and possess it, with its untold treasures, for the use of humanity. All honor to science for the results presented before us to-night! Even if this relentless accuracy of measurement is a little toned down—though I think the lecturer contrived to sustain himself admirably at an average level of fourteen thousand feet [laughter]—nevertheless, he has given us room to spread upon the map in vastness of area. So I think we may take the comfort the American found in contradicting the Englishman, when he showed him the wonderful sights of Europe. The American's ready reply was that "America could beat that." Last of all, the Englishman took him up into the top of Vesuvius, and, looking into the crater, asked him, "Now, have you anything in America equal to that?" Said the Yankee, "We've got a water-spout over there that could squelch that in five minutes." So I think Switzerland is pretty effectually squelched out on that map. And, certainly, we are further indebted to these scientific investigations for the wealth of the country. I wish that not only the hundred friends gathered here this evening, but that many thousands of our merchants and financial men, might listen to such an address as this, might hear this story of deserted towns, abandoned cities. Wherefore? Because we have been so backward in sustaining our mining schools here in the east, and training the men who should go there and teach the miners to do something more than scratch the soil. These men who have been out there exploring have done more to-day to enrich New York, and all this eastern coast, than all the emigration that went out before them.

Most heartily, then, sir, do I make this motion, and I hope we shall be stimulated to explore, more and more thoroughly, this vast field opened to us, and invite the public to share with us the rich reward.

After Judge Davies had seconded the motion of thanks, and the request of a copy for publication in the Journal, the thanks of the Society were conveyed by the president to Prof. Brewer.

On motion, the meeting then adjourned.

Regular monthly meeting of the American Geographical and Statistical Society, Cooper Institute, New York, March 21, 1871. Chief Justice CHAS. P. DALY, the president, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting, February 28, 1871, were read and approved.

Mr. Moore, on behalf of the Council, reported the names of the following candidates as having been approved for election as

Resident Members—Robert Maclay, Constant Schnerr, Courtlandt Palmer, Jr., and Alexander J. Davis.

No ballot being called for, on motion, they were declared duly elected resident members of the Society.

Mr. Remsen, on behalf of the treasurer, Mr. Henry Clews, read his report, exhibiting a cash balance in the treasury of \$853.56.

The recording secretary, in the absence of the librarian, Mr. H. B. Hammond, read his report, showing that in all sixty accessions were made to the library by donation.

Both reports, on motion, were accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

The president then read the translation of a letter which had been addressed to him by the president and secretary of the Belgian Geographical Society, announcing the recent formation of that Society and asking sympathy and co-operation.

On motion, this letter was referred to the recording secretary for action.

The president also read two letters which had been addressed to him by Messrs. Henry O'Rielly and Alexander J. Davis, expressing sympathy and co-operation.

On motion, both these letters were accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

The president stated also the substance of a letter which had been addressed to him by a Senor Gorgoza, of Central America, claiming the priority of his discovery of a passage for a canal across the American isthmus.

On motion, the letter was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

The president further stated that he had received a letter from the distinguished oriental traveler, Mr. Vambéry, in which he proposes to come to this country and to deliver a course of lectures on his travels in Central Asia.

On motion, the letter was referred to the recording secretary for future action.

The president then introduced to the Society Gen. James Grant Wilson, who read a paper "On the Northwest and its Discoveries."

At the conclusion of the paper, and on motion of Chancellor Ferris, seconded by Col. T. Bailey Myers, the thanks of the Society were presented to Gen. Wilson, for his interesting and valuable paper, and a copy of it requested for the archives of the Society.

On motion, the meeting then adjourned.

Regular monthly meeting of the American Geographical and Statistical Society, Cooper Institute, New York, April 18, 1871. Chief Justice CHAS. P. DALY, the president, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting, March 21, 1871, were read and approved.

Prof. Dwight, on behalf of Council, reported the names of the following candidates as having been approved for election as

Resident Members—Hon. A. Oakey Hall, Hon. Jos. F. Daly, Hon. Hamilton W. Robinson, Samuel A. Mitchell, and J. W. Drexel ;

And by Gen. James Grant Wilson, as

Corresponding Members—Hon. Wm. Chambers, Edinburgh, Scotland;

And by Dr. Naphegyi—Senor Don Emilio Pardo, of Mexico, and Senor Don Jose Carlos, secretary of the Mexican commission on claims, at present at Washington, D. C.

No ballot being called for, on motion, these gentlemen were respectively declared duly elected resident and corresponding members of the Society.

The Council further respectfully recommended that Paul B. Du Chaillu, Esq., be elected an honorary secretary of this Society for the remainder of the present year.

On motion, the report was unanimously adopted, and the recording secretary instructed to notify Mr. Du Chaillu of his election as an honorary secretary.

Mr. Remsen, in the absence of the treasurer, Mr. Henry Clews, read the treasurer's monthly report, exhibiting a cash balance in the treasury of \$1,076.06.

The recording secretary read the librarian's report, showing that during the past month one hundred and eighty-seven accessions were made to the library by purchase and donation.

On motion, both reports were accepted, and ordered to be placed on file.

The president then mentioned that he had received a letter from our honorary secretary, Mr. Francis A. Stout, dated at Geneva, in Switzerland, in which he gives a very gratifying account of the high estimation in which our Society is held abroad, and says that he had purchased several scientific works, to be presented to the Society.

The recording secretary read the translation of the following letter, which he had received from Cavaliere Cristoforo Negri, president of the Italian Geographical Society in Florence, which, on motion, was ordered to be entered on the minutes.

The president stated that an act had passed the last

Legislature of New York, by which the name of the Society has been changed to "American Geographical Society," and that henceforth the Society's Journal will be printed by the State.

The president then introduced to the Society Hon. Wm. Gilpin, governor of Colorado, who read an essay on the territory of Colorado and the city of Denver.

On motion of Rev. Dr. Thompson, a vote of thanks was passed to Gov. Gilpin; and, on motion, the meeting then adjourned.

STATE OF NEW YORK, No. 237, IN SENATE, *March 7, 1871.*—Introduced by unanimous consent by Mr. Bradley; read twice, and referred to the Committee on Literature; reported favorably from said committee, and committed to the Committee of the Whole.

CHAP. 373.

AN ACT in relation to the American Geographical and Statistical Society.

PASSED April 8th, 1871.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :

SECTION 1. The name or corporate title of the said Society shall hereafter be, "The American Geographical Society of New York."

§ 2. The objects of the said Society shall be the advancement of geographical science; the collection, classification and scientific arrangement of statistics, and their results; the encouragement of explorations for the more thorough knowledge of all parts of the North American continent, and other parts of the world which may be imperfectly known; the collection and diffusion of geographical, statistical and scientific knowledge, by lectures, printed publications or other means; the keeping up of a correspondence with scientific and learned societies in every part of the world, for the collection and diffusion

of information, and the interchange of books, charts, maps, public reports, documents and valuable publications; the permanent establishment in the city of New York of an institution in which shall be collected, classified and arranged, geographical and scientific works, voyages and travels, maps, charts, globes, instruments, documents, manuscripts, prints, engravings, or whatever else may be useful or necessary for supplying full, accurate and reliable information in respect to every part of the globe, or explanatory of its geography, physical and descriptive, and its geological history, giving its climatology, its productions, animal, vegetable and mineral; its exploration, navigation and commerce; having especial reference to that kind of information which should be collected, preserved, and be at all times accessible for public uses in a great maritime and commercial city.

§ 3. The power given by the act hereby accorded to the said Society to take, hold, convey, manage, and make use of its real and personal estate, shall be understood as authorizing said Society to take and hold, by gift, grant, bequest, devise, subject to all provisions of law relative to devises and bequests by last will and testament, or purchase real estate to the value of three hundred thousand dollars, and to invest its income, or its personal estate generally, so as to produce a regular annual income sufficient for the accomplishment of the purposes set forth in the first section of this act; but said annual income shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars annually.

§ 4. The said Society shall make an annual report of its proceedings to the Legislature.

(TRANSLATION.)

*Letter of President Cristoforo Negri to E. R. Straznicky,
Recording Secretary.*

FLORENCE, 24th March, 1871.

MY DEAR SIR.—Much business, hence a severe sickness, and thereafter a slow recovery, have prevented me to reply much sooner to your dear and esteemed letter of November 18, 1870, in which you give me so much pleasant information, and which I hope we will mutually continue to exchange.

You like to know the precise condition in which our Society finds itself at present. I must say that, after deducting all losses, there are to-day 1,246 effective paying members, of whom there are fifty life members.

It has no subvention from the government, nor from other institutions, or from the city. But the annual receipts from members come in now with sufficient regularity. It has three thousand lire in the treasury and two thousand lire accumulated as a fund, from contributions of life members. It has no debts, and will put to press the sixth volume of its Bulletin.

We shall continue to maintain in Abyssinia a naturalist, in the person of our member, Mr. Antinori. If the Italian government will establish a colony, as it has the appearance, then the Society will maintain there another naturalist, for the purpose of better exploring the country.

I insist that the government should unite one of their officers with the Arctic expedition, and it should in some way assist, also, the Antarctic expedition in 1874.

But the efforts which I made to give to the Society a strong internal organization, and to obtain efficient assistance in labor and in study, leave still much to be desired. Hence the presidency is weighed down with enormous cares.

Able men are not wanting in Italy, but harmony and perseverance in labors is difficult to accomplish.

I salute you from the bottom of my heart, and beg you to remember me respectfully to Messrs. Daly, Grinnell, Hayes, and all the other brave geographical members.

Your devoted

(Signed)

CRISTOFORO NEGRI.

Regular monthly meeting of the American Geographical Society, Cooper Institute, New York, May 16, 1871. Rev. Dr. Jos. P. THOMPSON, one of the vice-presidents, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting, April 18, 1871, were read and approved.

The Hon. Townsend Harris, on behalf of Council, reported the names of the following candidates, as having been approved for election as a

Resident Member—Childs Lee Clarke;

And by the recording secretary, as

Corresponding Members—Gen. Vicente Riva Palazios, of Mexico; Senor Manuel Cierol, governor of Yucatan, Mexico; Senor Joaquin Baranda, governor of Campeche, Mexico.

No ballot being called for, on motion, these gentlemen were respectively declared duly elected resident and corresponding members of the Society.

In the absence of the treasurer, Mr. Moore read the treasurer's monthly report, exhibiting a cash balance of \$987.78.

The recording secretary read the librarian's monthly report, showing that during the past month fifty-one items were added to the library by donation.

On motion, these reports were accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

The president then read the translation of a very complimentary passage in the last annual address of the president of the Italian Geographical Society, Cavaliere Cristoforo Negri.

On motion, the recording secretary was instructed to express the thanks of this Society to our sister Society in Italy, for this manifestation of kindness and good wishes.

The president then introduced to the Society Prof. Chas. Frederick Hartt, of Cornell University, who delivered a discourse on his recent explorations of the Amazonas.

On motion of Prof. B. N. Martin, seconded by Mr.

Morris, the thanks of the Society were then presented to Prof. Hartt for his very entertaining and instructive discourse, and a copy requested for publication in the Journal.

On motion, the meeting then adjourned.

Regular monthly meeting of the American Geographical Society, Cooper Institute, New York, June 13, 1871. Chief Justice CHAS. P. DALY, the president, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting, May 16, 1871, were read and approved.

Gen. Cullum, on behalf of Council, reported the names of the following candidates as having been approved for election as

Resident Members—Richard Larramore, Alexander Hamilton, Jr., Octave Pavy and Ambrose Lee.

No ballot being called for, on motion, these gentlemen were declared duly elected members of the Society.

Mr. Remsen, on behalf of Mr. Clews, read the treasurer's report, exhibiting a cash balance of \$890.01.

In the absence of the librarian, the recording secretary read his report, showing that during the past month forty-three items were added to the Society's library by purchase and donation.

On motion, these reports were accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

The recording secretary then read a letter addressed to him by Mr. F. A. Stout, by which he presents to the Society several very interesting relics of Capt. Ross, and a rare geographical work by Arnoldus Montanus.

On motion, the thanks of the Society were ordered to be presented to Mr. Stout for his valuable gift.

The president then announced to the Society the arrival in this city of Capt. Hall, with his ship, *The Polaris*, on his way to the arctic regions, and that a reception would be given at the Society's rooms to the captain and his officers before their departure for the north pole.

The president also introduced to the Society Mr. Octave Pavy, an American citizen of French descent, who was soon to start on his own account on an expedition to the north pole, by way of Siberia and Kamschatka.

The president also read the following letter, which had been addressed to him by Prof. Drisler, of Columbia College, accompanied by a portrait of the geographer, J. N. Reynolds.

On motion, the thanks of the Society were ordered to be presented to Prof. Drisler for his valuable donation.

The president then introduced to the Society Mr. Walton Grinnell, who read a paper on Eastern Manchouria, with observations on the manners and customs of the inhabitants of Corea.

On motion of Col. Myers, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Thompson, the thanks of the Society were presented to Mr. Grinnell for his highly instructive and interesting paper, and a copy of it requested for publication in the Journal.

On motion the meeting then adjourned.

NEW YORK, *June 13, 1871.*

JUDGE DALY, *President American Geographical Society:*

DEAR SIR.—Will you accept, for the American Geographical Society, the accompanying portrait of the geographer, J. N. Reynolds. You, of course, remember him as one actively engaged, some years ago, in this city, in politics and literature. His chief attention, apart from his political career, was devoted to the spread of geographical knowledge, and all his publications, so far as I know them (except a life of Washington, in Latin, said to have been written by his old schoolmaster, in the then backwoods of Ohio), had the same object in view. In 1835, he published, through Messrs. Harper & Brothers, a "Narrative of the Voyage of the United States Frigate Potomac, under the command of Commodore John Downes, during the Circumnavigation of the Globe in the years 1831, 1832, 1833 and 1834."

He also delivered an "Address on the Exploring Expedition to the Pacific and South Seas," which he printed in 1836.

It seems eminently fitting, then, that this portrait should be in the keeping of a Society whose primary object is to advance the science in which he took so hearty an interest.

Yours, very respectfully,

H. DRISLER.

Regular monthly meeting of the American Geographical Society, Cooper Institute, New York, November 28, 1871. Chief Justice CHAS. P. DALY, the president, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting, June 13, 1871, were read and approved.

Mr. Geo. Cabot Ward, on behalf of the Council, reported the names of the following gentlemen as having been approved for election as

Resident Members — Wentworth Huyshe, Wm. S. Mayo, M. D., Henry C. Bolton, Ph. D., Oliver Charlick, and Samuel Wilde, Jr., of Montclair, N. J.

No ballot being called for, on motion, these gentlemen were declared duly elected members of the Society.

Mr. Remsen, on behalf of the treasurer, read his report, exhibiting a cash balance in the treasury of \$328.16.

The recording secretary read the librarian's report, showing that, from the 13th of June to this date, three hundred and eighty-one accessions were made to the library of the Society, by purchase and donation.

On motion, both reports were accepted, and ordered to be placed on file.

The recording secretary also read a letter, addressed to him by Mr. Francis A. Stout, announcing a gift of a portion of the "Voyages" of De Bry, for which, on motion, the thanks of the Society were ordered to be expressed to Mr. Stout.

The president called attention to the loss which the Society had sustained in the death of two distinguished savans, namely, of Sir Roderick Impey Murchison, late president of the Royal Geographical Society of London,

and an honorary member of this Society; and of William Ritter von Haidinger, late ex-president of the Imperial Geographical Society of Vienna.

The president then, in returning to the death of Sir Roderick, said :

Since the last meeting of the Society, intelligence has been received of the death of Sir Roderick Murchison, the most distinguished name upon the roll of our honorary members. The time that must necessarily be devoted, this evening, to the examination and discussion of the Verrazano map and the paper which Mr. Brevoort has prepared, respecting it, will not admit of my saying as much as I would have wished upon a career so fruitful as that of our late illustrious associate. It will preclude my entering upon any detailed account of it, or speaking of it, except in a very cursory and general way.

The circumstances under which Sir Roderick devoted his life to advance the knowledge of mankind in the branches of science to which he especially applied himself, may be referred to as an instructive and most encouraging example. Men who become eminent in science are usually those who have, from the beginning, a strong natural aptitude for it; who are impelled in that direction by the consciousness of their particular fitness for such inquiries, or, to express it more strongly, by the irresistible bent of their genius; whilst others, less fortunately endowed by nature, are attracted to such pursuits by the personal distinction acquired, if they attain to any eminence. This was not the case with Sir Roderick. His father, the representative of an ancient Scottish family, had served with distinction in India, at that eventful period when the conquest and subjugation of the greater part of it was achieved by Warren Hastings, and, as was very natural, he destined his eldest son for the profession of arms. Educated in a military college, Sir Roderick entered the army and served under the Duke of Wellington, in the memorable war of the Peninsula, with the reputation of a brave and able officer. He reached the rank of captain, and when the peace of Europe was restored, being married and possessed of a large fortune, he retired from the army to the enjoyment of the life of an English country gentle-

man ; which, in his case, was especially attractive, for he had social position, military rank, wealth, and a fondness for field sports and out-of-door amusements. It was what would be to the majority of men, and particularly to Englishmen, a most enviable position—one which few would care to give up for any special pursuit, unless it should be political distinction, toward the achievement of which it is both an aid and a temptation. A very slight circumstance—a fishing acquaintance with the author of *Salmonia*, Sir Humphrey Davy—led to a suggestion from that eminent man that Sir Roderick should turn his attention to science; and as the suggestion is said to have been supported and encouraged by his wife, he acted upon it, and became one of the most practical, energetic, industrious and logical of explorers in one of the most complicated and difficult of pursuits, the science of geology—which, at that time, was but slowly emerging from the chaotic state into which it had been brought by the long protracted struggle between the Neptunists and Vulcanists. Of his labors and achievements as a geologist, it would be more appropriate that some of the eminent geologists of the Society should speak; but I may venture to say, I think with their approval, that few men have done more than he did, in that science, to bring order out of confusion, to rescue geology from the dogmatic impediments of theorists, and to change the direction of it into that line of inquiry which has led to such a large accumulation of facts, and produced such marvelous results. I think that I have heard it said that he received his first instruction from Smith, the English surveyor, who, recognizing the laws of superposition of stratified rocks, that the order of succession of groups was never inverted, and that each could be identified and distinguished by its peculiar fossils, traversed the whole of England upon foot, and, unaided by previous explorers, and without the assistance of a single co-laborer, brought into their natural division the whole series of English rocks. Whether Smith was his instructor or not, he followed up the pathway opened by this remarkable man, for his fame was established by, and will chiefly rest upon, his exploration and exposition of that great system of rocks to which Sir Roderick gave the name of Silurian; covering a vast period of time in the physical history of the globe, and embracing, until

the recent Laurentian discoveries, the earliest evidences of organized life upon our globe — a work for which he may be said to have perfected himself by explorations in northern Italy, in southern France, in the eastern Alps, and in the highlands of Scotland.

Ten years after this we find him engaged in the geological survey of Russia, or, more correctly, the European part of it; a labor of several years, the results of which were given to the world in an elaborate work, published in the English and Russian languages, the publication of which was followed by distinctions conferred upon him alike in Russia and in England.

I regret to say that I am not fully acquainted with the extent of his labors or writings as a geographer. He has not, that I am aware of, written any geographical works; but as he was, during his long life, a contributor of papers to various journals, periodicals and scientific bodies, he may have written a great deal upon geographical subjects with which I am unacquainted. In that department he is known to me, chiefly, as the president of the Royal Geographical Society, as the one to whom that society is more indebted than to any other man for the distinguished position it now occupies; and my knowledge of him, as a geographer, is derived principally from what I have read of his views and observations, in the Transactions of that body of which he was so long the distinguished head. The impression left upon my mind is that he looked upon geography rather from the stand-point of a geologist, and was more interested in the exact structure, the form and the surface of the earth, than he was in the phenomena which makes up so large a part of physical geography; and is, in this respect, distinguishable from his cotemporary, Sir John Herschell, who was not only a great astronomer but also eminent as a physical geographer. Sir Roderick was enthusiastically devoted to the acquisition of a knowledge of the unexplored portions of the globe, and especially sympathized with, and aided to the utmost of his efforts, polar and African explorations. He appears to have formed a very accurate conception of the physical features of central Africa, of the general laws of its physical structure, and to have had an almost prophetic instinct of what would be disclosed by actual exploration, and, so far as it has been laid open by explorers, his antici-

pations seem to have been verified. In everything relating to Africa, his knowledge was extensive, full and accurate, and his views large and comprehensive. His unwillingness to give credit to the general belief in the death of Livingstone, arose from the fact that he could form a more accurate conception than others of the position of the traveler, and of the circumstances with which he would be naturally surrounded, and was, therefore, better able to weigh and estimate the value of the evidence upon which the belief in his death was founded.

But I have already extended my remarks beyond the limits proposed. I very much regret that, in consequence of the business before us, I cannot call upon some of the gentlemen present, to whom the Society would listen with great interest, to speak of Sir Roderick as a scientific man, and, especially, as a geologist; our time will not admit of it; and I will, therefore, close my remarks simply with the general observation that we are indebted to him, more than to any of his cotemporaries, for making geography a subject of general public interest, not only in England but in other countries; and that he will always be regarded as having given the impulse to the movement, now so general, for obtaining full and accurate information of every part of the planet we inhabit.

Prof. Dwight read the following letter, addressed by Rev. Dr. Joseph P. Thompson, lately one of our vice-presidents, to the recording secretary, resigning his office in the Society, on account of his contemplated sojourn in the East. Prof. Dwight submitted the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, The Rev. Dr. Joseph P. Thompson, lately one of our vice-presidents, has been for many years an honored and an eloquent officer of this Society, serving it with assiduous devotion and discriminating care; and

Whereas, This Society is deeply sensible of the profound loss it sustains through his withdrawal from its management and from its meetings; therefore,

Resolved, That Dr. Thompson be and hereby is appointed an honorary secretary of this Society during his absence from the United States; and that he be, and is, invited to act as its foreign

agent, to represent it and to transact all business of the Society with the governments, kindred bodies, and individuals with whom we may correspond—to the end that, availing ourselves of his learning, tact and zeal, we may find our exchanges enlarged, our collections increased, and our field of usefulness widened.

Resolved, That the recording secretary be instructed to transmit to Dr. Thompson a copy of these resolutions.

Which, on motion, were unanimously adopted.

The president also read the following letter, which had been addressed to him by Baron von Lutke, vice-president of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society of St. Petersburg, promising, on the part of the Imperial Russian government, all possible aid and assistance to Mr. Octave Pavy, who left here last summer on an expedition to the north pole by way of Siberia and Kamschatka.

The president then, in introducing Mr. J. Carson Brevoort to the Society, who had prepared a paper on a copy of the Verrazano map, lately obtained through the efforts of Thomas E. Davis, Esq., in Rome, read the following letter, which he had addressed to this gentleman :

*Letter of Chief Justice C. P. Daly to Mr. Thomas E. Davis,
in Rome, Italy.*

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL SOCIETY, }
NEW YORK, October 26, 1870. }

MY DEAR SIR.—You will doubtless be surprised at this letter from me, which will at least recall our former more intimate acquaintance, of which I retain very pleasant recollections. I wish to ask your good offices in aid of an historical geographical inquiry, now pending before the American Geographical and Statistical Society of this city, of which I have been for some years the president. It is to obtain a photographic copy of a map now in the museum of the Propaganda at Rome, the importance of which, in this country, you will appreciate when I state the reasons that make it so, and which have given rise to this request.

It has been supposed that the bay and harbor of New York were first discovered, and the whole of the coast of the United States, from North Carolina to Maine, explored, in 1524, by Giovanni Verrazano, a Florentine, then in the service of France. The fact rests almost solely upon a letter giving an account of this early voyage, which was printed by Ramusio, an Italian compiler of voyages, in the third volume of his collection, published in Venice in 1553. The letter purports to have been written by Verrazano to Francis I of France, by whom he was entrusted with the command of four vessels, to discover new lands. Through perils encountered in the outset, the command, according to this letter, was reduced to a single ship or caraval, with a crew of fifty men, with which Verrazano sailed westward from the island of Madeira, on the 17th of January, 1524, and after a voyage of forty-nine days, reached, in his own language, a new country, which had never before been seen by any one, which is supposed to have been the coast of North Carolina; that from thence he sailed along the coast, south, for about fifty leagues, but finding no harbor, turned about again and pursued his course along the coast, northerly, until he reached what is supposed to have been the bold shore of Maine and New Brunswick, when, his provisions and naval stores being exhausted, he returned to France, arriving at Dieppe, in Normandy, in the beginning of July, from whence his letter to Francis I purports to have been written, on the 8th of July, 1524, the voyage having consumed about seven months. The letter, which is a very long one, covering thirteen printed pages, gives a detailed account of the entire voyage, embracing a survey of seven hundred miles of coast, including nearly the whole of the United States and a large part of the British provinces, to which he gave the general name of New France.

During this expedition, he landed, according to his account, in seven different places, one of which is supposed to have been the entrance to the harbor of New York; another is recognized as an excellent description of Narraganset Bay and the harbor of Newport. He gives a very full account of all that he saw, the configuration of the coast, the nature of the harbors, the inhabitants of the country and its natural productions; the trees, plants, fruits, flowers; the wild animals, and the appearance,

dress, avocations and customs of the primitive people he met with.

The letter is quite interesting, and, if genuine, very valuable, as the earliest description of what is now the United States. No account of any such voyage, however, has been found in the records of the French marine; nor is there anything respecting Verrazano, except the fact that he was born in Florence about 1480, that he was of a noble family, and the supposition that he was one and the same person with Juan Florentin or Floren, a kind of buccaneer in the service of France, who was employed by Francis I to waylay the richly freighted Spanish merchantmen returning from America, a career in which he was very successful, having captured two vessels laden with the treasures of Montezuma, which he brought to France, but was himself afterward captured by four Biscayen vessels, brought to Cadiz, where he was tried as a pirate, convicted and afterward executed at El Pico, in New Castile, by the express order of Charles V, in 1527. The identity of these two men is argued from the circumstance that both were natives of Florence, both were named John; that the French records show only one Florentine, with the name of John, who was in the service of France at this period, as a commander of vessels; that both disappeared in the same year, 1527, nothing having been heard of Verrazano after Juan Florentin, or Florin, was executed as a pirate; and that Barcia, the Spanish historian of Florida, a very reliable author, who wrote in 1723, in describing the exploits, and subsequent execution, of this man, calls him Verrazano.

About a century ago, Tiraboschi, the Italian historian; called attention to the fact that the letter of Verrazano, published by Ramusio, existed in manuscript in the Strozzi library, in Florence. This document is now in the Magliabechian collection. It is written in Italian, but whether it is the original, or a copy, is uncertain, as it differs in some respects from the one published by Ramusio. A copy of this manuscript was obtained by our former Consul at Rome, George A. Greene, which was translated by Mr. Cogswell, of the Astor library; and the translation, with the original, was published by the New York Historical Society. Accompanying this document, in the Magliabechian collection, is another letter, purporting to have been written by Verrazano, from

Lyons, after he had seen the king. This letter is not free from suspicion, but, if genuine, the copy of Verrazano's letter, in it, may be the one now found in the Magliabechian collection.

The only remaining fact, of any value, concerning Verrazano's voyage and discoveries, is a copper globe, found in Spain, and now in the New York Historical Society. This globe, which, from an inscription upon it, was made in Venice, in 1542, eleven years before Ramusio's volume, containing Verrazano's letter, was published in that city, has Verrazano's discoveries marked upon it, with a rude, but, for the time, very fair, outline of the North American coast, together with this inscription: "Verrazano, sive Nova Gallia, a Verrazano, Florentino comperto, Anno sol M. D." I may add, that an inscription on the globe shows that it formerly belonged to, and was probably made for, Cardinal Marcello Cervino, afterward Pope Marcello II, a circumstance of some value, as that pope, when the globe was made, was Archbishop of Florence, the city in which Verrazano was born; and as his holiness was twenty-four years of age when this voyage is said to have been made, he may probably have known something of Verrazano and of his discoveries.

I have here given you, briefly, the evidence upon which this alleged voyage of discovery rests, and have now to add that the genuineness of the letter, containing the account of it, has been seriously questioned. Mr. Buckingham Smith, our former secretary of legation at Madrid, a gentleman distinguished for his literary and historical researches, has subjected it to a close critical examination, in a very able paper read before the New York Historical Society, in which he has pointed out grave mistakes in the description of the coast, the soundings, the tides, and the courses steered; three of which he finds to be wrong; mistakes which he thinks could not have been made by a seaman; and because grapes and other fruits are represented in the letter as found ripe, three months in advance of their natural season. At the same time he freely admits that the general character of the land and the vegetation could not have been so correctly described, except from actual information; and he thinks these errors are inventions, which were thrown in among observations found in some memoranda left by an actual observer. He also points out, as remarkable, that a navigator, following the coast closely,

sailing only by day and lying-to at night, should pass from North Carolina or Georgia to the vicinity of New York, crossing Cheasapeake bay, without finding any harbor; and that he should have coasted to the British provinces, keeping close to the shore and never losing sight of it, without noticing the insular character of Nantucket, or the peculiar configuration of Cape Cod, etc. Mr. Greene, who examined the original document, thirty years ago, states that the character of the writing is of the sixteenth century; and Mr. Smith is of opinion, in explanation of its mistakes, that it was written at a period when the entrance to the coast and the lay of the land were imperfectly, if at all, known, and dated forward, so as to give it priority in the order of maritime discovery. Such things have been done, and Mr. Smith calls attention to some of the voyages attributed to Amerigo Vespucci, which are supposed to be fictitious, and to have arisen from the emulation, among Italian cities, to share in the honors of this great period of maritime discovery; and there is certainly some weight to be attached to the fact that no evidence of such a voyage has ever been found in France, and that the only original evidence of it is the letter found in the library at Florence, and upon a globe belonging to an archbishop of that city, the birthplace of the alleged discoverer. Other American geographers, on the contrary, are disposed to think that this voyage was actually made, and that the letter, notwithstanding the errors to be found in it, is genuine. The Hon. Henry C. Murphy, who has given great attention to our early discoveries, and who is among the best informed men upon the subject that we have in this country, is not, as I understand from Mr. Smith, satisfied that the letter is fabricated. For my own part, I am disposed to think it genuine upon the internal evidence of the letter itself, and the difficulty of fabricating it. But without going further into the evidence for or against it, the map in the museum of the Propaganda, a photographic copy of which we wish to get, is a piece of evidence which will probably settle the whole controversy. It is a map without date, on which is delineated the land discovered by Verrazano, and was made by his brother, Hieronimus Verrazano—at least such is the account I have received of it. An application, I understand, was made last year for a copy of this map, by the United States

consul, Pietro Calvi, Esq., to the superior of the Propaganda, Cardinal Baroddas, who admitted that the map was carefully preserved in the museum, but who refused to allow a copy of it to be taken; for what reason I do not know.

If this map is what it is alleged to be, it is perhaps the earliest delineation of the coast, harbors and territory of the United States; and, as such, is a document of great national interest to us. There may have been some special reason why Mr. Calvi's request was not complied with, for I can conceive of no general reason why permission to photograph such a document should be refused. The taking of a photograph could in no way injure the original, no matter what may be its condition, and there can certainly be nothing in such an instrument that would make it material to keep it from the public, as its whole value consists in the relation it bears to the history of geographical discovery. Great liberality has been shown by governments and institutions in allowing original maps to be photographed, to aid the study of geography and history. I have received from Italy, during the past year, the photograph of the atlas of Andrea Bianco, of 1436, consisting of ten maps and a photograph of Fra Mauri's celebrated map of the world of 1459, both of them documents of greater value than this map of Verrazano's brother.

A photographic copy is necessary, that it may be compared with the map of Roberto of 1529, and that our geographers, who are familiar with every part of our coast, may carefully examine, to judge whether it was probably drawn from actual observations or was simply conjectural, and if there is any gentleman in Rome who is skillful in determining the age of manuscripts, his opinion as to the period when this map was probably made would be very desirable. Sir Francis Madden, of the British Museum, could tell, from the inspection of a manuscript, about the period when it was written; and Mr. Major, of the same institution, could, upon examining a manuscript map, pronounce within a very few years of the time when it was produced. There may, probably, be some gentleman in Rome equally skillful, whose opinion as to the age of the Verrazano map, as it is without date, would greatly aid the inquiry. If the map is large, it may have to be photographed in parts. The countrymen of Columbus should feel an interest in our establishing the

fact that the first exploration and description of the United States were due to the efforts and adventurous spirit of an Italian; for if the claims of Verrazano are set aside, that distinction will have to be awarded to the Portuguese navigator, Estavan Gomez, who afterward explored the coast of the United States, while employed in the service of Spain.

It was first proposed that the Society should make its application for a copy of this map through the State Department at Washington; but Mr. Townsend Harris, who is a member of our Council, and the foreign corresponding secretary of the Society, suggested that you would probably, upon request, undertake to procure the photographic copy for us, and that you would probably know better than anybody else how the permission could be obtained; and I thought you would willingly aid us in an inquiry respecting the first discovery of a country in which you have so deep an interest and have passed so many years of your life. Whatever expenses are incurred will be paid by the Society, and you can draw upon me for the amount, which will be promptly remitted. This letter will be sent through Mr. Harris, who will also address you upon the subject. I send you a copy of my last annual address, the perusal of which may possibly interest you.

With my kindest regards to Mrs. Davis and your daughter, believe me, ever truly yours,

CHARLES P. DALY.

After the reading of the above letter, the president then said, that the late Mr. Buckingham Smith had, during the past ten years, made extensive inquiries in Spain and Portugal respecting Verrazano, which resulted in the discovery of manuscripts showing that Lusitanian authors, who wrote upon cotemporaneous events, speak of him as an intrepid sailor, who had been in India in 1517, assuming him to be one and the same person with Juan Florin. According to the statement of several eminent Italian scholars, he had lived for some years in Cairo, engaged in commercial pursuits, until the Mahometans cut off all communication, by the way of Syria, between Europe and Asia. Mr. Smith found that, in 1523, he was

about to undertake a voyage from France to Cathay, but was prevented by the intervention of the Portuguese government. This was the year previous to the voyage described in the letter of Verrazano, and which voyage he says was undertaken with the intention of reaching Cathay or China by the discovery of some passage in lands at the west, by which he could penetrate in that direction to the eastern ocean, and may have been undertaken because the Portuguese government would not allow him to sail to India by the way of the Cape of Good Hope. This fact, Mr. Smith admitted, opened the way for the belief that the voyage to America may have been made, as described in the letter in the Magliabechian collection, in the summer of the following year.

It appears that, in 1522, two years previously, he, Verrazano, was engaged in making depredations upon Spanish shipping, in the vicinity of the Canaries, and that in the following year, 1523, he captured two vessels, as has been stated, coming from the Azores, upon their passage from Mexico to Spain, laden with the treasures of Montezuma, and which he carried to France; an achievement which may have enabled him to return again to the sea, in the next year, 1524, with a well appointed fleet of four ships, as described in his letter, with the expectation of reaching India by the discovery of a passage around or through the continent of North America.

The ill-success of his attempt to find a way to India, in that direction, may have led to another expedition, by him, to reach India in the following year, 1524, the evidence of which was found in a document recently discovered by Mr. Margry, in the archives of the French marine, which is an agreement between Verrazano and certain officers of the French government and some eminent merchants of France, for the fitting out of an expedition, to be composed of three vessels, for a voyage to India for spices, but which was designed to be also of a predatory character, as provision is made in the contract

for the proportions in which the booty, if any were obtained, was to be distributed. This voyage was probably designed to be made by the way of the Cape of Good Hope ; but whether it was undertaken or not, or if it was, what was the result of it, is not known. The document, which is in French, sets forth that Verrazano was to be the pilot, that is, the commander of the expedition ; and, in the instrument, he is called Johan de Varesam, which is, no doubt, a French corruption of the real name, Giovanni Verrazano.

The further career of Verrazano is, as I have stated to Mr. Davis, involved in doubt. Barcia, in his work on Florida, after noticing the account of Verrazano's voyage to America, as found in Ramusio, says that, in the year 1524, after having been again greatly favored and honored, he went to sea again, with a stronger outfit than before, committing still greater ravages ; but that, on his return to France, having encountered five vessels belonging to Biscay, his ships were captured and sent to Sevilla, whence he and his captains were taken to Madrid, where they were tried, found guilty of piracy, and were hanged at Puerto del Pico ; whilst other writers give a different and less reliable account of his subsequent career and death.

Mr. Smith ascertained, from documents discovered by him in Spain, that the account of Barcia was substantially correct. He found that "Juan Florin" was, after trial, executed, with some of his followers, by the order of Charles V, at Colmenaz de Arenas, on the direct route from Cadiz to Lerma, about sixty miles south of west from Madrid.

Mr. Smith was cut off by an untimely death last winter, at the very period that he was about to prepare an account of his further researches respecting Verrazano, which he meant to print as supplementary to his previous publication ; and what I have now given in addition to my letter is from manuscript notes submitted by him to the inspec-

tion of Mr. Brevoort and myself. In his death we have lost the most accomplished American scholar, in all matters relating to the Spanish discoveries in America, who had represented our country as a diplomatist in Spain, in Portugal and in Mexico ; and who, to his acquisitions as a scholar, and his indefatigable spirit of research, added the personal attraction of a refined and courteous gentleman.

After the conclusion of Mr. Brevoort's highly interesting and instructive paper, and on motion of the Hon. Henry C. Murphy, the thanks of the Society were presented to Mr. Brevoort, and a copy of his paper requested for publication in the Journal.

On motion, the meeting then adjourned.

(TRANSLATION.)

Letter of Baron von Lutke to Chief Justice C. P. Daly.

IMPERIAL RUSSIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, {
ST. PETERSBURG, *September, 1871.* }

[1368.]

TO MONS. CHAS. P. DALY, *President of the American Geographical Society :*

MR. PRESIDENT.—It is with the liveliest interest that I have taken notice of the letter which you have had the kindness to address to me, dated New York, July 5. The letter arriving in St. Petersburg during my absence in the country, I can only answer it to-day, and beg you to accept my excuses for this involuntary delay.

The expedition of Mr. Octave Pavy deserves all the sympathies of the scientific world, and the Imperial Geographical Society of Russia hopes most sincerely that this traveler's bold enterprise may succeed.

I have placed myself in communication with the governor-general of eastern Siberia, for the purpose of informing him of the early arrival of the expedition at Petropaulosk, and I have requested him, in the name of the Geographical Society, to furnish aid and assistance to these Arctic explorers.

It must, however, be borne in mind that this protection can only be effected to a very limited extent, as, beyond Gijiguinsk and Nijne-Kolymsk, permanent establishments or settlements do not exist. The transportation of reports or letters, which Mr. Pavy might address to Europe and to America, will prove equally difficult and slow, for the regular service commences only from Yakutsk.

In all events, the Imperial Geographical Society of Russia will always feel happy if it can furnish even the smallest piece of information to the American Geographical Society, about the progress of Mr. Pavy's expedition.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurance of my high consideration.

COUNT F. LUTKE,
Vice-President.

32 WEST THIRTY-SIXTH STREET, }
NEW YORK, Oct. 25, 1871. }

To Mr. E. R. STRAZNICKY:

DEAR SIR.—As I am preparing to reside abroad for an indefinite period, it is proper that I should signify to the American Geographical Society my resignation of the office of vice-president, with which it has honored me for so many years. I beg you to express to the Society my grateful sense of the dignity it has so often conferred upon me, and my earnest desire for its prosperity and usefulness.

I shall at all times be happy to further the objects of the Society, and shall hope at some future time to resume my active membership.

Be pleased, dear sir, to accept for yourself, and to express to my associates in office, my warm acknowledgment of the courtesy with which you have always honored me.

With high regard, very truly yours,

JOS. P. THOMPSON.

Regular monthly meeting of the American Geographical Society, Cooper Institute, New York, December 26, 1871. Chief Justice CHAS. P. DALY, the president, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting, November 28, 1871, were read and approved.

Hon. F. A. Conkling, as chairman of the Council, recommended the names of the following candidates as having been approved for election as

Resident Members—Brig.-Gen. A. von Steinwehr, Edmund B. O'Callaghan, LL.D., and John M. Bixby;

And by Hon. Townsend Harris, as a

Corresponding Member—Thomas E. Davis, Esq., in Rome.

No ballot being called for, on motion, these gentlemen were declared duly elected members of the Society.

Mr. Remsen, in the absence of Mr. Clews, read the treasurer's monthly report, exhibiting a cash balance of \$204.30.

In the absence of Mr. Hammond, the recording secretary read the librarian's monthly report, showing that during the last month sixty-one accessions were made to the library, by purchase and donation.

On motion, both reports were accepted, and ordered to be placed on file.

The president then called the attention of the Society to a very costly bound copy, in folio, of Ptolemy, printed in Rome in 1508, and restored by Mr. Henry Stevens, at his own expense, in London.

On the motion of the Hon. F. A. Conkling it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be conveyed through the recording secretary to Mr. Stevens, for his generous contribution to the Society's collections.

Mr. Francis A. Stout then offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1. That, deeply sensible of the great honor conferred by the College of the Propaganda at Rome in selecting this Society to first receive, from its precious archives, copies of the celebrated map of Jerome Verrazano—a favor coveted and sought for years by the science of Europe, and finally graciously granted to the younger learning of America—this Society respectfully

tenders its thanks and high appreciation of the confidence and compliment implied.

Resolved, 2. That the thanks of the Society are eminently due to Mr. Davis for his earnest and thoughtful effort in aid of geography, and for the generous loan of his great influence in the Eternal City in procuring, from the College of the Propaganda, copies of the celebrated map of Verrazano.

Resolved, 3. That the recording secretary be requested to transmit authenticated copies of these resolutions to the College of the Propaganda, and to Thomas E. Davis, Esq., in Rome.

On motion of the Hon. Townsend Harris, seconded by the Hon. F. A. Conkling, these resolutions were unanimously adopted.

On motion of Prof. Thomas F. Harrison, it was

Resolved, That a special committee of three be appointed by the president, to prepare for the next annual meeting in January, 1872, suitable nominations for the election of officers for the ensuing year.

The president accordingly appointed Messrs. Harrison, Hull and Richards, as such committee.

The president then introduced to the Society the Rev. Edward Fontaine, a former graduate of West Point, who read a paper "On the Physical Geography of the Mississippi River and its Delta."

On motion of Judge Peabody, seconded by Mr. Conkling, the thanks of the Society were presented to Rev. Mr. Fontaine for his interesting and instructive paper, and a copy of it requested for publication in the Journal.

On motion, the meeting then adjourned.

E. R. STRAZNICKY,

Recording Secretary.